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Dorset Branch

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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February 2019, Volume 22, Issue 3
www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk

The MMOC Dorset Branch

was founded in 1980 by Graham Melly and chaired in the early days by Aubrey Batt. It is a Branch of the National Morris Minor Owners Club but has its own accounts and organisation (see Constitution for further details) **We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (7:30 for 8:00)** at the **Bournemouth Electric Club, Broadway Lane, BH8 0AA**. We have an active calendar of events throughout the year – particularly in the Summer months when we attend **many rallies** and other shows. The monthly Club Night is an opportunity to meet the other enthusiasts and enjoy a presentation or other activity organised by the Committee. Please note that the Dorset Branch MMOC will accept no liability in respect of goods or services provided by advertisers. No recommendation is implied.

Membership currently costs £10 per year, £12.50 for joint membership.

Please ask Branch Secretary if you require a copy of the Dorset Branch Constitution. (Also available on website.) For more details contact Laurie Blewer on 01202 522673 or John Jenkinson on 01202 576690

Advertising: Cars or spares for sale or wanted £5 per entry (Free to members). Traders

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Membership Secretary	Brian Ford 07502161535	Caterers	Sue Blewer Lyn Gerry
Events organiser/ H&S supervisor	Andy Dibb 01590 674557	FRONT COVER: Feeling on top of the world	
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Forthcoming Events (see also www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)


2019

6 th February	Club Night—Charity Blind Auction
9 th –10 th February	Great Western Classic Car Show, Shepton Mallet
22 nd February	Barn Dance—Southern Electric Club
7 th March	Club Night—Talk by probation officer
3 rd April	Club Night—Hobbies evening
28 th April	Drive It Day —Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford, Yeovil
1 st May	Club Night—Antiques evening—Phil Traves
18 th –19 th May	Moggyfest / Beaulieu Spring Autojumble, Beaulieu
8 th June	Bradford Abbas Festival of Wheels, Bradford Abbas
22 nd –23 rd June	Bristol Classic Car Show, Shepton Mallet
3 rd July	Club Night—run out to the Beach House, Milford on Sea
13 th July	West Moor's Village Fete
12 th –14 th July	Dorset Branch rally
28 th July	Mid-summer Saunter—details tbc
4 th August	Lymington Car Show, Woodside Park
7 th August	Club Night—Gardening Competition
2 nd –3 rd November	Classic Vehicle Restoration Show, Shepton Mallet

2020

18 th January	Dinner and Dance, Dudsbury Golf Club
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(Don't forget to check the website for latest updates to events)

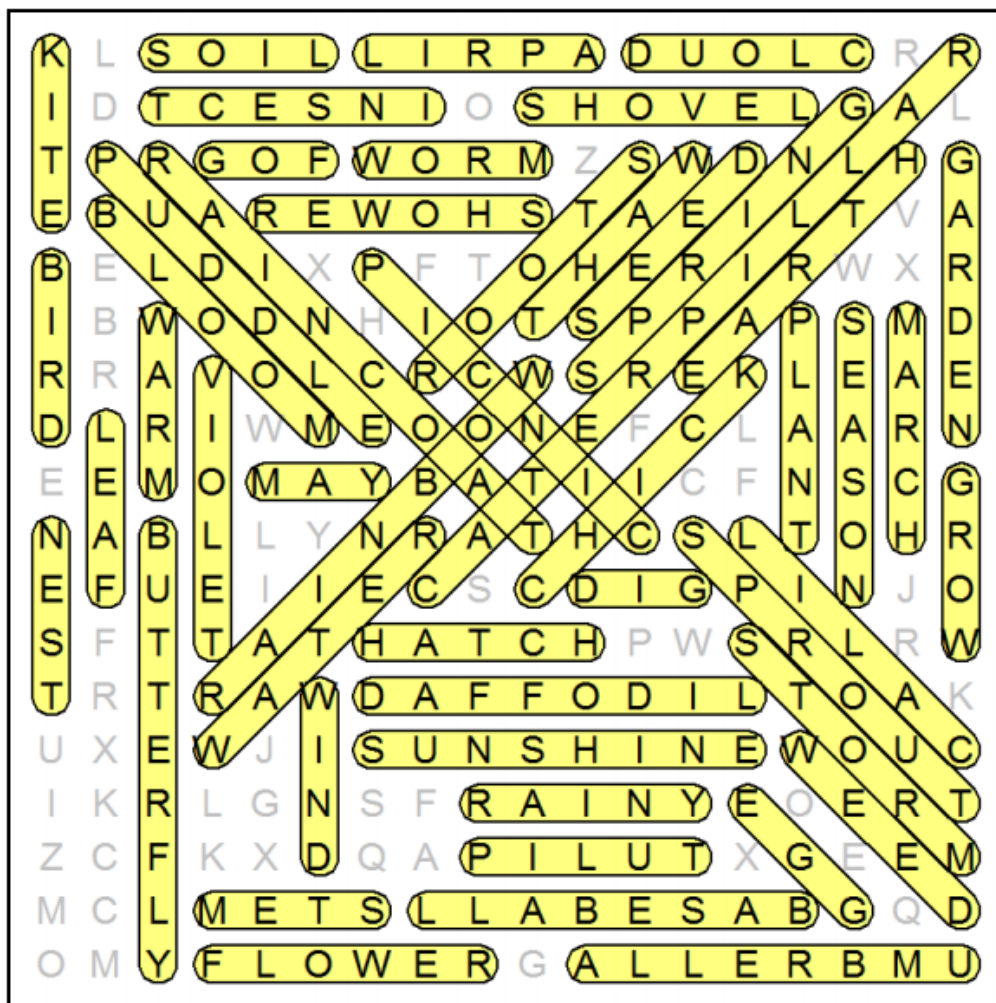


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Word Seeker: answers



Dorset Branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club
Helping to preserve the post war Morris Minor in the Dorset area and beyond



Dorset Branch Newsletter

MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

Volume 22 Issue 3

February 2019

CLUB NIGHT ACTIVITY:
Charity Blind Auction

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Editorial: New Beginnings

As this is the first Newsletter of 2019: Happy New Year. I hope it will be a good one for you and your loved ones.

I had a pretty quiet festive period with work in between, and the new year is steaming ahead. Liefie and I enjoyed the Mistletoe Meander to the point where we were unceremoniously asked to leave and had to consume our fish and chips standing up in the freezing cold outside. I have to say I was pretty gutted seeing I had been told from the start it would be OK to bring Liefie and had been bringing her to 6 Club Nights already without a word from anyone. I was glad for the good friends in Chris and Rachael to at least have someone to share the meal with.

As Liefie spends most of her day in a kennel anyway, and she is still a puppy, I would not be able to leave her at home locked in her crate after a long day at work, as it simply wouldn't be fair. So that means from now on I won't be able to attend Club Nights anymore, which is pretty upsetting. That then makes me wonder whether as Newsletter editor you need to come to the Club Nights to speak to people, attend the events and build relationships. So it may well be that I feel it's time to pass the baton called Newsletter on to someone else. As it takes me at least a full weekend day a month (as I work full-time), it may be quite a relief too.

The New Year brings new plans for trips abroad with Cyril and Liefie. Of course there is the MOT, where we will be meeting my parents for a week of chocolate and all other good things Belgium has to offer (Brexit or no Brexit!) and share the time with those who care for us.

But before that happens, my parents will come to visit us in March—time for a week of making memories. And then I'd like to also visit friends in Africa at some point this year—it's been a few years I was there last. Obviously that will be without Cyril or Liefie—who will be staying in a Doggie B&B (she's already passed her probation—she's a good girl). We've also started a Gundog Training Course, keeping us both active on a Sunday morning.

So next time I see you may be at one of the Club's events away from the Club House. In the meantime, I will enjoy going to the Club Nights of my local Classic Car club. We meet in 2 separate pubs alternate months, and both pubs luckily welcome dogs to their establishment—as many other pubs, cafes and restaurants do.

Much love from Liefie and me—keep them rolling.

Natasja

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 Morris Minor Owners Club, Dorset Branch

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News from the Spares Department

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For Sale & Wanted & Club Notices

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Tony Parker, 07831-471630, tony@fordingbridge.com

FOR SALE: 1971 Traveller. One owner since new, late model – £4,500 or offers. Phone 01202 485673 for details



Word Seeker: Spring

K	L	S	O	I	L	L	I	R	P	A	D	U	O	L	C	R	R
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- | | | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|----------|
| April | Fog | Puddle | Stem |
| Baseball | Garden | Rainbow | Storm |
| Bird | Grow | Raincoat | Sunshine |
| Bloom | Hatch | Rainy | Thaw |
| Butterfly | Insect | Roots | Tulip |
| Caterpillar | Kite | Season | Umbrella |
| Chick | Leaf | Seed | Violet |
| Cloud | Lilac | Shovel | Warm |
| Daffodil | March | Shower | Water |
| Dig | May | Soil | Weed |
| Earth | Nest | Spring | Wind |
| Egg | Picnic | Sprout | Worm |
| Flower | Plant | | |

Don't Have a Breakdown

For those that missed my 30-minute presentation at the last Club Night on what to do if you have a breakdown in your Minor, here is a brief summary of the relevant points.

Firstly, the Minor is probably (and arguably) the most reliable classic you could find and failures are usually preceded by something unusual. Possibly a strange smell, an unusual noise, loss of power, flames coming out! In which case, you now have the option to choose the place where you grind to a halt. Don't cross your fingers and hope it will 'sort itself out'. It probably won't. It helps if you have at least a cursory knowledge of what is going on under the bonnet and where the main components are located and what they do. Don't leave it until you have actually broken down. It's going to be too late then.

The first job is to make sure you are somewhere safe (as Arthur Cox observed, you can often use the starter motor with the car in first gear just get off the roundabout or junction where you will be cursed a little less by the passing motorist and waved at with not all the fingers of one hand). A quick look under the bonnet can often reveal a loose wire, leaking fuel, steam, etc etc. A safety warning triangle is a good idea if you have one. You can buy a cheap folding one and keep it in the boot – they don't take up much room. Make sure you put it a reasonable distance from the car if the road is greater than 30mph speed limit.

Remember your safety is most important if you don't feel confident to 'have a go' then summon assistance straight away. If you are on a motorway (whatever that is!) the advice is to get out and hop over the Armco on the side.

I wasn't trying to detail every type of breakdown that it is possible to suffer, just to discuss the most likely culprits. Assuming you haven't run out of petrol, this is usually the HT electrical system and often involves loose leads, failed coil or condenser etc. One of the first checks should be the petrol pump which is a bit of an Achilles' heel. It should 'tick' every few seconds on first switching on the ignition.

When the weather warms up a bit and the evenings get lighter I have got a few jobs to do on both cars when time permits!

Just to let you know Dave Walker has now negotiated trade price discount for DMMOC members with Motabitz – you just need to show them your membership card. That's all from me for this month. Happy Minor-ing,

Laurie



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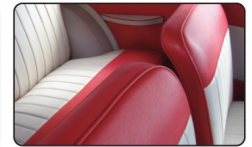
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Secretary's Report



Good evening everyone and welcome to the first newsletter of 2019. I hope everyone enjoyed last month's Club Night activity where Brian gave us a talk on "Minor Breakdowns". I must ask Brian for a copy of his service sheet which should prove very useful. Tonight is our annual Blind Auction for charity, so please dig deep in your pockets and help us raise a good sum.

The Mistletoe Meander was very well attended and the fish and chips were excellent as usual. Thank you to Andy for sorting out the route. This year's Dinner & Dance was at Bentleys Restaurant at The Dudsbury Golf Club, where we enjoyed an excellent meal in beautiful surroundings. We were entertained this year by Paul Hammond, who did an excellent job of getting everyone up on their feet onto the dancefloor. Next year's booked for 11th January 2020.

Events for this year are beginning to be planned. I have had the date for the Breamore Steam Up, which is 11th and 12th May. We are planning a Drive It Day Run on Sunday 28th April to The Haynes Motor Museum. If you've not been there before or haven't visited since the museum was refurbished I can thoroughly recommend it. I have registered us for a club stand at The Bradford Abbas – Festival of Wheels on Saturday 8th June. Looking at feedback from previous years on Facebook it looks to be a good show. Let me know if you are interested in coming along – I only have 15 spaces available though! Keep an eye out in the events diary for other activities, shows etc.

The entry forms have gone out for Moggyfest 2019 at Beaulieu. If you haven't received one via email, you should be getting one with this newsletter. They have started to come back already, so make sure you return yours to Jacky by the end of March at the latest. We are planning to have a display of photographs to celebrate 25 years of the Spring Autojumble in the marquee this year so if you have anything we can borrow please let either myself or Roger know.

I'm afraid I've hardly been in the garage at all over the last month or so apart from visiting Classic Cars On The Prom on New Years Day with Louise when we gave the Series II a run.

by Brian Wood



If all is silent, try tapping it gently with a blunt object (on the metal part not the plastic cap). If it starts ticking, you might be away again – but probably only a few hundred yards before it happens again. If home is more than a few hundred yards away, you can remove the plastic cap on the

pump and try to clean the contact points with a nail file or something abrasive. Don't be tempted to run the pump for any length of time (other than to test it) with the cap off – you will lose the little pivot pin which holds the points in the pedestal and then you will be in trouble!

If everything looks intact then you might suspect the coil/condenser. A few years ago, it was fair to say 'It's never the coil'. However, these days the quality of such items is suspect and new coils seem to fail quite regularly. The same goes for the condenser, and it pays to buy a good quality one to start with. You can try to see if you have a spark by taking No.1 plug out, reconnecting the HT lead and cranking the engine on the starter.

This isn't always a conclusive test, as there might still be a weak spark. If there is no spark on the plug – then you are on to something. The best solution if the coil or condenser is suspect is to substitute one or both for a known 'good' one. If you are really well organised, you might have in your toolbox a condenser with soldered crocodile clips that you can attach the wire to the 12V terminal on the distributor and the body to a suitable earth point. You don't have to disconnect the one in the distributor and this may get you home.

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We then went on to talk about things you should keep handy in the car – eg. Break-down organisation membership card, phone, warning triangle, torch, tyre repair foam can, blanket, water, starting handle etc.

If you might 'have a go' yourself – a few tools would be handy – i.e. plug spanner, screwdrivers, pliers, duct tape, cable ties, AF combination spanners, adjustable spanners, (and BSF spanners if there is room). A few spare parts is always a good idea – if you can't fit them yourself, the AA man might be able to fit them for you. (He is unlikely to carry any spares for 'our' cars). We reckoned that hoses, fan belt, petrol pump, coil, condenser. Parts should be new or 'known good'. The best advice is to buy a new one (ie petrol pump/coil) fit the new one, and keep your old one as a spare.

We didn't mention electronic ignition - which is a whole session on its own! Some systems are more reliable than others, but if you are worried, the best advice is to carry a spare, working distributor (with good points and condenser) so if the system fails, the spare distributor can just be popped.

I think, at this point, I reminded the meeting of the title of the talk which was 'How *not* to have a breakdown'. The message I wanted everyone to take away was the philosophy of preventative maintenance. If the car is well maintained, it might still break down, but the chances are infinitely less. I have devised a simple servicing chart (based on the workshop manual) which was dished out to those that wanted it and it is available to download from the website on the 'Technical' page (Minor Servicing Check sheet). There are a few more articles on technical subjects on that page also, that might be of interest.

We then talked about the differences between classic cars and new cars – the main point being that older cars need more attention than newer cars and you need to view running them from a different viewpoint. Also, the lack of requirement for an MOT doesn't relieve you (the driver) of responsibility to maintain the car. Hence the need to show that you have either serviced and maintained it yourself by using the check sheet (ticked off, dated and signed) or a voluntary MOT or garage servicing record.

Hopefully, you will never be in need of breakdown assistance, but if you do, hopefully your knowledge of how best to handle it will be slightly greater.

Chairman's Report



Good evening and welcome to the February's Club Night. This is the first club magazine for 2019. First of all, we were sorry to hear, rather belatedly that Branch Member Robert Jenkinson passed away. Our condolences, thoughts and best wishes are with his wife Patricia and their family.

There was a good turnout to the Mistletoe Run with 28 classic cars decorated in Christmas Fayre and 78 members and friends for the fish and chips dinner. The weather was also kind to us with sunshine and not too cold.

The Dinner and Dance at the Dudsbury Golf Club went well with the tables decorated with Christmas crackers, hats and balloons. The food was enjoyed by all the members and Paul on the disco seemed to go down well. The committee have booked the same venue again for next year.

Andy and I are looking for a pub for July's Club Night run-out and also some other venues for the branch to visit. One of these has been suggested for the Juke Box and Retro Fair at the Brighton Racecourse on Saturday 27th April. If you would like to attend, please let me know. The price is £24 pp including the coach travel there and back and the cost of entry to the show. Please note that there are 35 spaces only.

I was sorry to hear from Jacky that the numbers for the Barn Dance on February 22nd 2019 was only 10! So if you want the Branch to run this event, please let Jacky know as soon as possible - or it will have to be cancelled. The Committee and arranging some new runs and a branch rally and days out - so if any of you have any other ideas please let me know.

Tonight is the 'Blind Auction' so dig deep in your pockets to raise funds for this year's Branch Charity. That's all for now,

Happy Minor-ing,
Your Chairman

John Jenkinson